

NEWS RELEASE
Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Federal Building
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: October 5, 2004

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**IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE OF
MONTE CRISTO PRESCRIBED BURN**

Salt Lake City, Utah Tom Tidwell, Forest Supervisor, Wasatch-Cache National Forest announced today that the Ogden Ranger District is planning to start implementation of the Monte Cristo prescribed burn, Wednesday, October 6th through Friday, October 8th, weather permitting. The Monte Cristo Prescribed Burn is comprised of 9 units totaling 2,600 acres. The plan is to burn 4 units (A, B, G and I), which total approximately 1,800 acres. The remaining 5 units will be burned as conditions allow. The purpose of the burn is to improve aspen and mountain brush regeneration and to improve range and wildlife habitat conditions. Additional benefits include regeneration of vegetation to lower the risk of insect and disease, protect riparian areas, prevent erosion and to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires through the reduction of hazard fuels.

To meet resource and safety concerns, prescribed fires must only occur when a specific set of conditions are met. These conditions include air, soil and vegetation moisture levels, temperatures, wind direction and speeds, smoke dispersal and expected fire behavior. This prescribed fire will only be ignited when fuel moistures and weather conditions will allow the smoke to drift away from communities near the burn area. Qualified fire personnel will use drip torches and a helicopter to ignite fire in the designated areas. Engines and hand crews will monitor the fire until completed.

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The burn areas are located south and east of Highway 39, approximately 13 miles west of Woodruff, and approximately 35 miles east of Ogden. Visitors can expect short delays along Utah Highway 39 due to burning activities and possible smoke inversions. For public and firefighter safety, the burn areas and all roads and trails leading into the burn areas will be closed during burning operations.

Depending on weather conditions, lighting of these prescribed burns could take place from October through November 2004.

MEDIA NOTE: PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT YOU WILL NEED APPROPRIATE FIRE RETARDANT CLOTHING (NOMEX) AND PROPER FOOTWEAR (LEATHER BOOTS UP PAST THE ANKLE) IF YOU WISH TO ACCESS THE FIRE AREA.

BURN UNITS A AND B WILL BE VERY VISABLE FROM UTAH HIGHWAY 39.

BURN UNIT I IS ACCESSIBLE BY DIRT ROAD.

BURN UNIT G IS ONLY ACCESSIBLE BY FOOT.